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## APPENDIX B

### CBSC Decision 08/09-2142 & 09/10-0383+ CITS-TV re *Word.ca* and *Word TV*

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#### The Complaints

##### CBSC File 08/09-2142

The CBSC received the following letter dated August 14, 2009:

To Whom It May Concern:

Detailed here are concerns with two broadcasters. The first & more serious complaint regards a television broadcast of *Word.ca* on CTS aired on July 19, 2009 at 11:00 pm. During the show, the hosts discussed a gay man relieved of his volunteer duties at a Catholic church. It was made clear he was not right to lodge a formal complaint about his situation. General comments were made about the alleged sin of homosexuality & viewers were urged to sign a petition against this man's claim. This would have the effect of exposing this individual to undue public scorn & may be a violation of his civil rights.

[The second part of the complainant's letter was about an entirely different program on a different channel and raised different concerns.]

Thank you for your consideration.

##### CBSC File 09/10-0383

The same complainant then filed another complaint about CTS's broadcast of *Word.ca/Word TV* on November 5:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am complaining re two editions of *Word.ca* on CITS-TV that aired at 11:00 pm on Sunday, Oct. 25 & Nov. 1 respectively.

In the Oct. 25 edition, the World Pride event in 2014 in Toronto was discussed. It was repeatedly referred to as World Sex Day or Parade, was dismissed as an endorsement of "perversion" & derided as an event that would sexually exploit any minor children in attendance. The audience was informed of an internet petition to halt the event, of which viewers were reminded in the Nov. 1 show, along with other tacky remarks.

I cannot believe in this day & age that public airwaves are still being permitted as a hate speech vehicle for those who still see the gay community as a sex-crazed social scourge. Thank you for your consideration.

CBSC File 09/10-0522

On December 4, the complainant filed another complaint about additional episodes of the program and made references to some of his other complaints:

To Whom It May Concern:

May it be known that I am dissatisfied with all of the responses to all of my pending complaints.

[The first two paragraphs of his letter referred to his other complaints about other programs and stations.]

I find the fulsomeness of the networks' responses to be tonally patronizing & condescendingly invalidating, filled as they are with mind-fogging folderol such as "we at this network", "in good CBSC standing", "your valued opinion" (which is often not addressed until at least a page along) & quotations of broadcast policy. I'd rather have my opinion responded to, timely & succinctly.

This, however, is still preferable to how I have been dealt with by CITS-TV. Only one of three complaints about *Word.ca* has been responded to, and another four are now pending.

In broadcasts of *Word.ca* on CITS-TV (November 8, 15, 22, 29, 11 pm), offensive comments have been made about gays & Muslims (whose moderates are too liberal & whose fundamentalists are xenophobic) & in the course of discussion about euthanasia, people suffering from mental duress [*sic* – distress] have repeatedly been equated with the perception of mental incompetence. In addition, its host violated copyright by showing an uncleared internet clip of the show *Curb Your Enthusiasm* to decry HBO Canada.

[He then mentioned a different issue on a different broadcaster.]

Thank you for your consideration.

The complainant wrote again on January 7, 2010 to add new broadcast dates to this file:

To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to complain about broadcasts of *Word.ca* on CITS-TV from Dec. 13, 2009 & Jan. 3, 2010 for similar reasons as in past complaints re the gay community. In particular, I wish to note that in the Jan 3 edition Dr. McVety claims that Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has claimed he would revoke gay marriage rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

CBSC File 09/10-0815

He wrote again on February 1, 2010 with additional dates and concerns about the program:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing re concerns about *Word TV* broadcasts on CITS-TV from January 17 & 24, 2010.

The show's host has again campaigned against the Pride parade referring again to it as "the Sex Parade" & in the January 17<sup>th</sup> broadcast he referred to the gay community's alleged need to sexually prey on children through active recruitment practices. He has praised the govt & his viewers for actions against the gay community & has lowered the level of debate about Haiti's need for aid with his poor handling of the CNN [*sic*, likely CBN]-Pat Robertson issue.

I request this complaint be held for adjudication as I cannot imagine there is anything CITS could say to satisfy me & I believe they are dealing with me in bad faith.

Thank you for your consideration.

## **Broadcaster Responses**

The broadcaster responded to each of the complaints.

### File 08/09-2142

CITS-TV responded to the first complaint on September 4, 2009:

I have received your complaint concerning *Word.ca* broadcast on CTS TV, July 19, 2009 at 11 pm, (CBSC File#C08/09-2142). I have carefully reviewed the entire broadcast and offer the following comments.

As you state in your letter, you are concerned that the individual that has complained to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal would be subject to "undue public scorn and may be a violation of his civil rights" because you believe you heard the host ask viewers to "sign a petition against him". I have reviewed the program carefully and need to clarify that the host doesn't ask viewers to sign a petition against this man's Ontario Human Rights complaint. The host is asking for viewers to sign an ongoing petition against public funding for Gay Pride Parades.

It is important to note that this program aired on July 19<sup>th</sup>, days after this story was covered by Canada's National Newspapers. The host of *Word.ca* comments on this news item from a Christian perspective and his belief that homosexuals should not be serving Communion in the church. The host expresses his belief that, through the Bible, the practice of serving Holy Communion cannot be conducted by a practising homosexual. He also expresses his belief that the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal does not have the authority to intervene in the religious practices of the Roman Catholic Church. None of this discussion was aimed directly at the person complaining to the Ontario Human Rights Tribunal and I do not believe this exposes him to undue public scorn or is a violation of his civil rights.

### File 09/10-0383

CITS-TV responded to this complaint on November 30:

I have received your complaint concerning *Word TV* broadcasts on CTS TV Oct. 25/09 & Nov. 1/09, CBSC File #09/10-0383. I have carefully reviewed both programs in question and offer the following comments.